

EARDISLAND PARISH MAGAZINE

MAY 2023

ISSUE 194



Best Coronation-decorated house by Pauline Davies and her son Cllr. Richard Davies

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EDITORIAL

The Coronation was a national spectacle that confirmed this country's ability to present a ceremonial occasion of excellence. The events of Saturday 6th May 2023 were watched, and appreciated, by many millions both at home and across the world.

Eardisland was adorned with bunting which trailed around the village, houses were decorated, and a programme of events was organised. These events are covered in the centre of this magazine. A great deal of work went into their organisation and success. Many thanks to all those involved. And weren't we lucky with the weather - a splendid sunny day for the Recreation Ground activities, sandwiched between two rainy, grey days.

For many years, this magazine was printed at Leominster Community Resource centre. The Centre was run by Dr Les Hardy, a retired Mathematics teacher and community stalwart. I'm sorry that Les has died at the age of 81. Whilst we no longer have this magazine printed there, I hope the foundations Les laid will enable the Resource Centre to survive.

It doesn't seem long ago that our 'Open Gardens' took place, but it is nearly a year ago. It is to be repeated this year and the details are on page 8. Last year the weather was poor, so let's hope it is more favourable this time around.

Finally, the first elections in many years have been held to appoint Eardisland Parish Council's members, the results of which appear on page 4. I wish them well in their deliberations and decisions for the next four years.

Chris Bivand

EARDISLAND PARISH DIARY 2023

W/E 13/14 th May	National Mills Weekend, p.31
Saturday 3 rd June	Community Garden planting, p.16
Thursday 8 th June	Parish Council Meeting
W/E 17/18 th June	Open Gardens, p.8
Saturday 24 th June	VH Races, p.17
Friday 30th June	Magazine Copy Date
7/8/9 th July	Kingsland Flower Festival, p.19
Friday 7 th July	VH Quiz Night, p.18
Thursday 13 th July	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 10 th August	Parish Council Meeting (if required)
Sunday 27 th August	Duck Races
Friday 1st September	Magazine Copy Date
Saturday 9 th September	Eardisland Twinning Association Cheese and Wine Evening, p.12
Saturday 2 nd September	Eardisland Village Show
Thursday 14 th September	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 7 th October	Craft and Produce Fair
Thursday 12 th October	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 28 th October	VH Octoberfest
Thursday 9 th November	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 10 th November	VH Quiz Night
Friday 17th November	Magazine Copy Date
Sunday 10 th December	VH Christmas Food and Gift Fair
Thursday 14 th December	Parish Council Meeting (if required)

MY THANKS

Many thanks to all the contributors who managed to get their copy in early for this edition. The dates for the Coronation were only known well after our copy dates were fixed last year. As you might imagine, getting this edition together given that the copy date was the day preceding the Coronation Saturday, the logistics were difficult. Anyway, it worked. I am particularly grateful to Susie Curtis, who not only played a huge role in arranging the various celebrations, but also was able to get the copy to me so that we are on time for the printer.

Ed.

ELECTION RESULTS

Herefordshire Council:	Roger Phillips	Re-elected
Eardisland Parish Council	Merry Albright	Re-elected
	Jerry Blyth	Elected
	Shelley Connop	Re-elected
	Richard Davies	Elected
	Maryan Hanson	Re-elected
	Richard Kirby	Re-elected
	Rebecca Rhys-Evans	Elected

Two former Parish Councillors decided not to stand for re-election: Elaine Harper and David Weir. Reg Curtis was not re-elected. Thanks are owed to them for their work over their term in office. David served on the PC for some 16 years.

On a personal note, it's good to see another full election in the parish. If my memory serves me right, it's the first in 20 years. The Parish Council undertakes a difficult job in very hard financial times and its members often take a lot of flack for doing what they think best for the community. None are paid. I wish them well for their terms in office.

DEBBIE COTTAM

I am aware that Debbie Cottam has resigned as Clerk to Eardisland Parish Council. Her departure is rather sudden and leaves the new Parish Council with something of a problem, given that it cannot function without a Clerk.

I have worked closely with Debbie because the Eardisland Parish Magazine is published by the Parish Council, and it's important to get things right. During the time that I have known her in her official capacity as Clerk, I have appreciated her concern for 'doing things properly' and trying to ensure that all the appropriate protocols were followed. Debbie was new to the job of Parish Clerk (unlike Alison Sutton, whom she replaced) when she started, but was keen to learn.

Debbie's unfortunate resignation gives pause for thought about the precise function of the Parish Clerk, the necessary and appropriate hours, and the consequential remuneration. I hope these matters can be resolved - and quickly.

I am sorry to see Debbie resign, and I thank her for her help and consideration during the time we have worked together.

Chris Bivand

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

1. By the time you read this item Eardisland will have voted for new Parish Councillors. A list of those elected appear on page 4. (The full results are available on the Herefordshire Council's website. Ed.)

2. **Are you prepared for the next flood event?**

Please make sure that you have your Personal Checklist to hand, and you know what to do in a flood event. And most importantly please make sure you register with the Environment Agency for flood alerts and warnings – go to

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings> or ring 0345 9881188. The

Eardisland Flood response Plan is available on the website

<https://www.eardisland-pc.gov.uk/eardisland-flooding-response-plan-efrp/> or

contact the Parish Clerk on 07799 826779 for a copy of the Plan.

3. ***Are you new to the parish; have you just moved in?***

If you have not already received a 'Welcome to Eardisland' pack, please contact the Parish Clerk and we will be pleased to bring you one.

4. The **Parish Council Website** can be accessed at eardisland-pc.gov.uk with the community website continuing to provide all other information at Eardisland Community Website

5. **Parish Council News Alert emails.**

Keep up to date with news from the Parish Council by registering for news alert emails. Go to eardisland-pc.gov.uk, scroll down to the bottom of the page and complete your details in the space provided bottom left. This will enter you onto our "Mailchimp" email list. Emails are only sent out occasionally - we will not flood your inbox!

GDPR requires people to give positive consent for the Parish Council to hold personal data and to allow you to receive emails. Please contact the Clerk if you wish your name and data to be removed from the list for news alerts.

6. The following **Planning Applications** have been considered or noted at recent parish council meetings:

P223529/FH - Lynch Court Eardisland Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9AR - Proposed Stables.

P224070/FH & P224071/L - Staick Cottage Eardisland Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9BU - Proposed conversion of adjoining garages into additional living accommodation and other works including new vehicular access and detached garage.

P230070/K - 1 Lynch Cottages Eardisland Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9BE - Removal of 1 coniferous tree and grind, resulting stump out.

P230738/K - Staick House C1035 From A44 Via Eardisland, Eardisland, Herefordshire HR6 9BU - T1 - Sweet Chestnut Tree - To be Dismantled to Ground Level, due to Severe Decay at Base, and in Stem.

P230968/XA2 - Lower Hardwick House Pembridge Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9HF - Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 4 5 6 & 7 attached to planning permission 221357.

P230826/U - Arrow Lawn Broome Lane Eardisland Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9BS - Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the Existing Use of Arrow Lawn as a C3 dwellinghouse.

223663/XA2 - Staick House Eardisland Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9BU - Application for approval of details reserved by condition 5 (part) attached to Listed Building Consent 214003.

7. The planned Parish Council meeting dates can be found in the diary of the magazine. Extra meetings will be held if required to meet deadlines for response to planning applications and details can be found on the notice boards and website. Meetings are open to the public and a short time is allocated on the agenda to take questions or comments from parishioners, in line with the council's Standing Orders.

Debbie Cottam

PAUL JONES AKA 'PAUL THE POSTMAN'

As an example of dedicated and loyal public service, it would be hard to find a more conscientious employee than Paul – he wasn't just a 'postie', but a reliable friend who used common sense in the execution of his duty. And certainly, he was a friend. Paul took an interest in Eardislanders' lives and family fortunes. He cared not only for doing his job to the best of his ability but also for the welfare of those he served. It was a loss for us all that such a dedicated asset to the community retired from the Royal Mail on Friday 24th March. Paul started as a 'postie' in May 1989, taking over the Eardisland round sometime later, and working for us for around 29 years.

I phoned Paul after his retirement to glean some details. As you might expect, he felt much as any of us would upon leaving such a job. Paul didn't much enjoy some of the winter weather, especially wet, icy, snowy conditions and especially floods. Whatever the weather threw at him, though, he almost always managed to get through to deliver our mail – he reckoned 99% success, defeated only occasionally by floods. Paul did note that he will miss the workplace banter.

Paul will continue to live in Leominster, with his wife, Jackie. They have two daughters and are expecting their first grandchild later this year. On 28th May, Paul and Jackie will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. Both are keen countryside walkers and enjoy family days, meals out and Jackie is especially keen on TV dramas.

As a sign of the community's appreciation of Paul, he was invited to open the village community shop, which took place on 1st May 2010.

Paul wishes to thank all in Eardisland and surrounding areas for all the cards, gifts, and money that he received upon his retirement. He professes to be 'blown away' by the generosity. Paul expresses 'massive' thanks to all those who were so kind and thoughtful towards him as Eardisland's 'postie'. Paul regards the whole experience as a privilege and a pleasure and there is nothing he will forget.

Paul's replacement worked for years as the 'postie' for Wigmore. We now welcome Louise.

I am sure you will all join with me in thanking Paul for his many years of service to Eardisland. Paul, we all wish you a happy and long retirement!

Chris Bivand

There is a photo of Paul on the back page of this edition of The Eardisland Parish Magazine.

WALKING THE FOOTPATHS OF EARDISLAND

Do you enjoy walking in and around the parish - with or without a canine companion? If so, could I please ask you to keep a lookout for any problems or concerns on our public rights of way?

If you should come across a damaged stile, gate or bridge please report it using the online reporting tool on the Herefordshire Council

website [Public rights of way – Herefordshire Council](#) and also let the parish clerk know of the concern. The parish does not currently have a Parish Footpath Officer and, until such time as that post is filled, we can all do our bit to keep our footpaths safe for all to use.

Debbie Cottam

EARDISLAND OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND 2023



**Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June 2023
11am - 5pm**

Admission £6 Children under 16 free

**A wide variety of gardens in our multi-award
winning village**

Car park, tickets, refreshments etc at Village Hall

All locations signed and easily accessible

**THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT
WILL SUPPORT ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, EARDISLAND**



A successful number of Fundraising Events have been enjoyed in the Village Hall over the last few months. These have included an Attic Sale, where villagers managed to sell on some unwanted goods!

At the beginning of April, an exhilarating Easter egg hunt was enjoyed by over 50 children. It was a

wonderful sight to see them excitedly exploring the park looking for clues. Then happy, smiling faces, full of pride entered the hall to collect their winnings - a thoroughly enjoyed chocolate Easter egg. This was then followed by a delicious afternoon tea. Licked lips and full tummies filled our beautifully Easter-decorated village hall. It was declared a fantastic day, which was enjoyed by all!

Lastly April saw the village hall electrified with anticipation for another well-attended, fun quiz night. It was a great success that saw the room overflowing with hearty laughter.

A huge thank you to everyone who comes and supports our events. I am pleased to say we raise much-needed funds for the upkeep of the village hall. As always, we would love to welcome any new volunteers to join our committee. We have great fun and thoroughly enjoy the time putting on events. So if you feel that you have some time to offer, please come along and join our enthusiastic team. It's also a great way to get involved in village life and make new friends.

We have had a few committee members step down in the last month. They have supported our village hall committee for many years, and we would like to say a massive thank you, to each and every one of them.

Going forward, great new members have joined us. They are bursting with energy, overflowing with enthusiasm and full of ideas to ensure the Village Hall stays the vibrant heart of our terrific community.

Please look out for our Future Events and Village Hall Activity Posters for what is coming up in the next few months.

We look forward to seeing you all soon,

Susie and team
EVHMC



EARDISLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

All of our members should now have their Neighbourhood Watch stickers, although I had to resort to Royal Mail for some of you on the periphery. These window stickers are of more use in built up areas where they can be seen without accessing private property, but for most of us, their deterrent value is lessened by the fact they would not be seen until a would-be perpetrator approached our front door. To that end I have fabricated this sign and mounted it on our gate post for increased deterrence. If anyone is interested let me know as I could supply and fit one for £5.



If you are interested in joining this scheme, you will need to become a member and then join the Eardisland scheme using the following link:

<https://members.ourwatchmember.org.uk/join> to register by providing your personal details. Once you have done that and you are in your account, select the 'Manage Schemes' option in the 'dropdown' under 'Neighbourhood Watch Tools' in the top banner on the page, then click on the yellow 'JOIN OR APPLY TO CREATE A NEW SCHEME' bar and follow the process, selecting Eardisland to join this scheme and gain access to regular security hints as well as discounted security equipment and home insurance.

If you have any questions on membership, drop me a line or give me a call with your name, address and contact details and I can complete the membership process on your behalf.

Joe Logan

Westgate, Eardisland HR6 9AR, Phone: 01544 388878
Email: eardisland_neighbourhood_watch@hotmail.com
(please note the 2 underscores)

EARDISLAND WI

The AGM for Eardisland WI was held in March and the committee re-elected; the meeting was followed by a competitive Beetle Drive. As with every organisation, expenses have increased over the last year and a small amount of fund-raising will be needed in 2023, this will ensure that the WI can continue with a high standard of speaker and events. An increase in membership has helped enormously, but new members are always welcome to what is a social group with discussions and activities.

The new membership year started with a demonstration from Sally Stick who recently opened the Fudge Shop in Leominster. We saw a vegan chocolate fruit and nut fudge being made and the results were excellent. We were also able to taste a variety of fudge from her shop.

In contrast, the subject of our 15th May meeting will be of local interest, with a talk on the important and historic buildings in the county. On June 12th we will be visiting a local garden at Aulden Farm which will be taking part in National Open Gardens.

The Eardisland WI had a stand at the Coronation Big Lunch, held at the renamed King Charles III Recreation Ground, where we were able to get together and meet old and new members of the WI.

The Eardisland WI Committee

EARDISLAND TWINNING ASSOCIATION



SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING 30TH MARCH 2022

Eleven parishioners attended the Special General Meeting. Twenty-two other people requested their apologies to be noted. It was agreed that Ruth Brinton-Bivand, in her role as founding Chair of the Association, should chair the meeting.

Chris Bivand, as the latest Treasurer of the Association, gave a financial update. At the date of the meeting the balance in the ETA account was £543.61. An invoice of £7.00 would follow for the hire of the Hall for the meeting.

Four people at the meeting stood for election onto the committee and were duly elected: Chris Bivand, Ruth Brinton-Bivand, Liz Lever and Tony Tindale. At the ensuing first meeting of the new Committee held on April 19th, the following officers were elected: Chair – Ruth Brinton-Bivand; Secretary – Tony Tindale; Treasurer – Chris Bivand; Elected Member – Liz Lever; Co-opted Member – Julie Tindale.

The meeting received a brief overview of the history of the Association to date from Ruth Brinton-Bivand, going back to the initial contact in 2004. She was unaware of a current committee for the Association in France, but was in regular contact with Marc Morière, the mayor of La Vieille Lyre and proposed contacting Marc with the outcomes of the SGM. Marc regularly posts on the joint Twinning Facebook page.

The meeting discussed possible developments of the Facebook project with La Vieille Lyre. At the time of writing there are 114 members from both sides of the Channel. Two principal suggestions emerged. Firstly, Ben Woodcock would be prepared to replicate the Facebook page onto the Eardisland Community Website for those who use the Internet, but do not use Facebook. This would have a one-off cost implication of 49 US dollars. Secondly, Ben offered to write a digest of the previous two months' postings by La Vieille Lyre in a regular article in the Eardisland Parish Magazine. It was felt that the Association needed feedback on what Eardisland residents would welcome - both regarding these suggestions and regarding the overall development of Eardisland Twinning Association in general. It was proposed to seek feedback at the ETA stand at the forthcoming Eardisland Coronation Weekend. (All parish organisations have been invited to participate in a "showcase" of village stalls and displays to take place after the "Big Bring and Share Lunch".)

It was agreed that the new committee would consider the current Constitution and recommend any amendments needed to the AGM in 2024.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

Eardisland Twinning Association invites you to a Wine and Cheese Evening on Saturday 9th September 2023 from 7.00pm to 9.00pm in Eardisland Village Hall. Tickets will be available at £7.50 in Eardisland Community Shop from Tuesday 1st August 2023 on a first come, first served basis. Tickets will include your first glass of wine/juice, portion of French cheeses, French bread and butter/condiments. There will be a wine/juice bar. Everyone is welcome! Previous evenings have been a sell-out and great fun...

Ruth Brinton-Bivand

Chair, Eardisland Twinning Association (388375/ 07773 706147
ruthbrintonbivand@gmail.com)

EARDISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

The E&SG is a working group of the Parish Council. Anyone interested in making Eardisland a more sustainable parish is welcome to come along.

Parish Council Environment and Sustainability Policy and Declarations

When the E&SG was started in October 2021 one of the first actions it asked the Parish Council to do was declare Climate and Biodiversity Emergencies, and to agree an Environment and Sustainability Policy. We've recently updated these, and they can be read on the Parish Council website at <https://www.eardisland-pc.gov.uk/policies/>.

While it may seem dramatic for our Parish Council to 'declare emergencies', we are joining the UK government, Herefordshire Council, and many other local councils. The UK government was the first national government to declare a climate emergency in 2019 and 95% of the UK population now lives in an area where the local authority has done the same.

The declarations acknowledge the dangers and costs of inaction, and commit the Parish Council to building in climate and biodiversity to its decision-making process, and to working with the E&SG to produce an annual report and plan to set targets and monitor progress

The policy requires the Parish Council to '*consider the impact its activities have on both climate change and biodiversity and endeavour to introduce measures that either mitigate negative outcomes or actively support beneficial outcomes, where this is practicable and affordable within the resources and financial capabilities of the PC.*'

It sets out 30 points within the council's activities (such as using local suppliers, requesting new builds incorporate renewable energy, or creating wildlife friendly areas) that will have beneficial outcomes.

Litter Pick

The 18th March was the annual spring litter pick. Around 10 people helped clear 10 miles of verges from Lawtons Cross to the A44 and Burton, Broome and Lyme Lanes. About 15 full sacks of litter were collected, and one big sack of glass/cans/plastic bottles sorted for recycling. Usual selection of odd large items including this year a Kenwood Chef (no bowl or attachments). Most of the non-recyclable litter is unfortunately single-use plastic food and takeaway wrappings.

This year's litter pick will help towards the E&SG project to get Eardisland recognised as a 'Plastic Free Community' (<https://plasticfree.org.uk/>). Once again thanks to the Community Shop for the sacks and Connops for the equipment, and Herefordshire Council for collecting the full sacks.

Plastic Free Eardisland

The E&SG group is the steering group of Plastic Free Eardisland <https://plasticfree.org.uk/>. We're hoping other Eardisland based groups, events and

businesses will support this initiative. It's not about removing all plastic from our lives but reducing the use of avoidable single-use plastic.

We're in the process of contacting all our local businesses with an offer to help them to become one of our plastic free business champions.

What is involved?

It's a simple 4 step process, which we will support you in doing:

Step 1: Sign up

Step 2: Make a list of all the single use plastic in your business

Step 3: Start tackling the list with the easiest items first (you can include things you have already done)

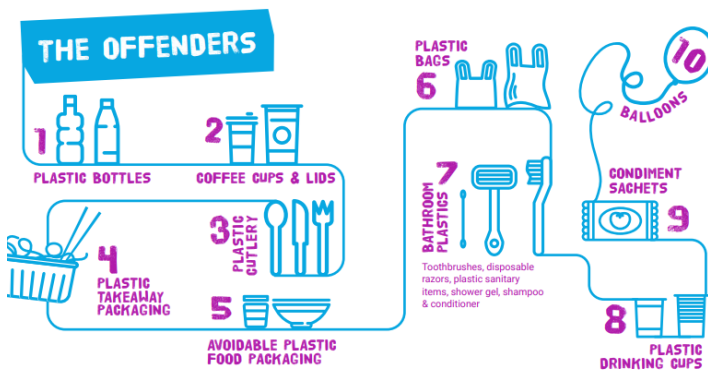
Step 4: Once you've removed 3 items you can apply to be a plastic free champion

What's in it for the business?

Positive local publicity and increased footfall – customers notice these things.
Reducing pollution.

What sort of single use plastic might be removed?

Takeaway food containers / cutlery / plastic drinks cups / bottles. Condiment or toiletry sachets, carrier bags and packaging. Balloons and plastic bunting.



How to get involved?

Just get in touch and we can arrange to help you get signed up and start the process.

Ben Woodcock
b3nwoodcock@gmail.com
01544 388976

DRINKING WATER TAP



The drinking water tap outside the shop is now turned on and we are hoping that it will be used by residents as well as by visiting walkers and cyclists as a place to stop and refill their drinking bottles. It is hoped that we are thereby encouraging less plastic to be used. In many parts of Europe it is quite common to see drinking water available in even the smallest villages so we hope we might start a trend over here! Welsh Water were pleased to help us and noted that we were one of very few villages to provide such a facility.

We would like to thank the Eardisland Environment and Sustainability group for their ongoing support and

encouragement. We are particularly grateful to Ben Woodcock who dug the very deep trench required by Welsh Water for the connection. Many parishioners have also helped, notably the E team who kindly landscaped the ground around the tap and put in concrete edges to smarten it up. Dave Gittoes provided the base and Dan Powell installed the tap itself and fixed it when it was damaged by frost. The Dovecote Trust readily gave permission to use the land and special thanks must go to Dave Carr who drew up the plans which made our application to Welsh Water so much easier. Thanks also to Burton Court for their generous donation. The water charges will be paid by the shop profits and the committee will make sure the installation is properly maintained. So it has been a great community effort and will hopefully play a part in making us a more environmentally friendly Parish.

The shop is continuing to reduce its stock of plastic items and packaging as much as possible and we are applying for a grant to provide metal drinking bottles. As always the shop needs volunteers to keep going and new volunteers are always welcome as is anyone who wants to return after a break. If you have any spare time and enjoy meeting people and chatting, please call in and join our wonderful team of supporters.

From Eardisland Shop Committee

EARDISLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN

PLANTING SEEDLINGS

SATURDAY 3RD JUNE
FROM 10AM

All welcome (especially children) to come and join us for planting out seedlings and sowing more seeds..

We'll also be building bean poles.

Hot drinks and biscuits at about 11am.

Please bring a fork or spade if you can.





RACE *Night*



Join us for an evening filled with excitement and entertainment. Sponsor a race & choose your horse to win!

Saturday 24 June 7pm

Eardisland Village Hall

£5 Entry - Bar available



To book please contact Susie
susie.evhmc@yahoo.com



Reg Charity no. 1108366





QUIZ NIGHT

Eardisland Village Hall

Friday 7 July

QUIZ STARTS 7:15 PROMPT

MAX TEAM OF 6

REFRESHMENTS & BAR

BOOKING RECOMMENDED

£2

ADMISSION

Susie.evhmc@yahoo.com
reg charity no. 1108366

Save
THE
Date



FLOWER FEST

@KINGSLAND CHURCH

JULY
7/8/9
2023



EARDISLAND CORONATION CELEBRATION WEEKEND



The official photograph

Well, it all started with a wonderful team of volunteers from across all organisations in the village creating a Coronation Committee like no other! Commencing with bunting, which was bought, borrowed and loads made by members of the village from donated fabrics, enabling us to create in total 2000 metres. The village centre was decorated with festive flourish down both sides to set the mood for what was to be a full and fun packed weekend. Best Decorated House was won by Richard Davies, well done!



Saturday morning began with the viewing of the coronation of King Charles III which was watched by a peak television audience of 20 million Britons, according to official viewing figures. Some of us enjoyed it at home with friends and family, others in The White Swan enjoying a free glass of Bucks Fizz, tea, or coffee. The White Swan continued the day with

hosting Live Music in the evening with much singing and dancing enjoyed by many.



The King is crowned

Sunday saw a full day starting with a wonderful Community Celebration service at St Mary's Church led by Rev. Julie Read. We enjoyed a lovely service including the choir singing the new specially commissioned anthem "Sing for the King" followed by bubbly and cake. The collection was for a new 'Coronation' bible for the lectern; I have since been informed that well over £400 was collected which is enough to make that purchase.

We all moved quickly on to the Big Lunch Celebration, one of more than 67,000 celebration lunches that happened in the UK. The Village Hall was quickly filled with a magnificent display of home-cooked foods brought to share; a banquet fit for a King!

Maryan Hanson kindly opened the event with the renaming of the village recreation ground to The King Charles III Recreation Ground for which the official sign will be installed once the Palace approval has been granted.

Over 240 people from the parish and visiting family enjoyed a day full of laughter and fun, with races for all the family, lovely displays and games hosted by the village trusts, charities and organisations. This was accompanied with lively music played by our Village Band to bring cheer and happiness to what was a wonderful day. The new tug of war rope kindly funded by the Community Shop was enjoyed by kids and adults alike. The weather was perfect, many new friends were made, and we all went home on a high!





Monday morning was the Big Help Out part of a campaign to showcase how volunteering benefits both our village community and the people who take part. We started the day with Ben Woodcock presenting the planting of a Royal Mulberry tree in celebration of the Coronation and marked with a plaque announcing it as The Coronation Tree. Many set to work on community works, such as litter picking, cleaning windows, watering trees, clearing the Village Hall and weeding and gardening at the Church.



We had not long to catch our breath before the final activity of the Coronation Weekend “The Raft Race” was to commence. The centre of the village quickly filled with rafts, ranging from an inflatable pink flamingo to barrels strapped together and decorated, to painted floating pallets. Eleven rafts took part in total, with the Woodcock family raft “Windsor Castle” winning the most flamboyant raft on the day. A wonderful parade of rafts was walked or transported up to the start and then the fun commenced. After much hilarity, mild competitiveness and bank dodging, all rafts managed to complete the trip down the Arrow with the Connops’ raft “Cheeky Charlie” winning the race in just 7 minutes.





Heartfelt thanks go to: all the individual and business financial donors; the Community Shop and the Parish Council, whose funding helped the purchase / making of the bunting, all the decorations, The Coronation Tree, the signs, prizes etc.; all who helped assist with making and putting up our bunting throughout the village; and all those lending and erecting the marquees and gazebos for the Big Lunch event.

Lastly, I wish to give enormous thanks to a wonderful Coronation Team who worked tirelessly to put on such an incredible weekend for all in the Parish to enjoy. "What a wonderful weekend" I have heard from so many – along with a call to do it all over again!

Susie Curtis
Chair of the Coronation Committee

CHURCH MATTERS

All are most welcome to services and will find a friendly and caring community. Come along and find out more; contact us too, if you are interested.

If you would like to volunteer to read a lesson, lead prayers, become a welcomer, sing, play, look after the church in any way or choose a hymn for a special occasion, please let us know.

Priest-in-Charge:	Rev. Julie Read, The Rectory, Kingsland. 07826 194400, rev.julie@hotmail.com 01568 708255
Curate	Rev Katie Smith: 07775 486521
Reader	Rosie Capon: 07811 436412
Churchwarden and Lay Co-Chair:	Richard Kirby: 01544 388810
Deputy Churchwarden and Organist:	Annette Blyth: 01544 388241
Treasurer:	Mike Coleburn: 01544 388486
PCC Secretary:	Avis Denny: 01568 780874

Services at St Mary the Virgin, Eardisland and in the Benefice

Date	Time and type	Which church?
Sunday 14 th May Children needed!	10.30am Rogation Service Blessing of farm, animals etc Wear suitable clothing, shoes Bring and share picnic lunch	Hall Farm, Leinthall Earles HR6 9TR
Tuesday 16 th May	7pm Annual Church Meeting to elect Wardens and PCC	Eardisland
Thursday 18 th May Ascension Day	7pm Deanery Communion Service – all welcome	Kingsland
Sunday 21 st May	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 28 th May Pentecost	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 4 th June Trinity	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 11 th June	9.30am iSingPoP	Eardisland
Sunday 18 th June	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland
Sunday 25 th June	9.30am Holy Communion	Eardisland

Home at last and I have some lovely tales to tell of the Sydney Opera House and La Boheme, the outback and sights of Koala, Kangaroo, Echidna and one snake, playing the oboe again for the first time seriously in the last 40 years, Holy week in Oxford at Christ Church Cathedral and a series of 10 chamber music concerts I went to in a week in London performed by RAF musicians. I was reminded of the power of music to envelope, to inspire, to bring you to your knees in worship, to take you to the depths of emotion and the heights of joy. I hope that my sabbatical will help me in my role as your priest and in the worship in our church.

As I write I am looking forward to sharing some of your Coronation Celebrations and hope that the village, county, country and commonwealth will affirm allegiance to King Charles III and support him as he seeks to serve his people and lead us in the care of the world and in harmony with the nations around us. May God bless him in his allotted tasks and protect his family. I know that Bank Holiday Monday is a time to volunteer, and I would like to thank those who volunteer in the church to keep it looking so spick and span and loved, and thank those of you who have volunteered over the years in this community. I hope you are able to find time to volunteer now in one of the groups of the parish, and hope to see some bell ringers take up the ropes. We have in Eardisland, some of the finest bells in the country, and yet it is ringers for outside your parish who come to ring them. Geoff the tower captain hales from Lyonshall and is an excellent teacher, he has taught ringers to ring at Kingsland and Aymestrey and not one yet from Eardisland.

May is a busy month and following on from the Coronation we have a Rogation Service at Hall Farm on the Gatley Estate in Leinthall Earles at 10.30am. Do come and pray for the land and for those who farm and garden it. Bring sensible shoes and a plate of food to share and all are welcome. At the end of the month will be the feast of Pentecost when we remember 50 days after Easter when Jesus having finished his work on earth returned to his Father and the Holy Spirit came upon the first disciples, tipping them out into the world to share the faith they had found. They found they were able to communicate and be understood by the different nations and different languages that had gathered in Jerusalem over the festival. My prayer for us all is that the Holy Spirit will come upon us all to help us to go out and share the faith we have with others and find that we are understood and are able to understand others. In the post pandemic world people are getting out again and sharing again. Let us embrace each other and learn from each other and enjoy the company of those in our community.

Every blessing,

Julie

TREES OF EARDISLAND

The Environment & Sustainability Group received funding to look at trees in the parish as part of understanding the importance of Eardisland's trees and how we can look after them. Details of all trees can be found on <https://treezilla.org/>

European Beech – *Fagus sylvatica*

Location: Recreation ground

Height: 13 metres

Trunk diameter: 66cm

Leaf area: 490 square metres

Life expectancy: More than 40 years

Carbon Dioxide stored: 1478 kg to date

Carbon Dioxide removed: 29 kg a year

The carbon stored in this tree is about the same as is emitted by three people flying from Manchester to Alicante and back. Planted for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.



English Oak – *Quercus robur*

Location: Recreation Ground

Height: 1 metre

Trunk diameter: 3 cm

Leaf area: 0.5 square metres

Life expectancy: Up to 500 years

Carbon Dioxide stored: less than 1kg

Carbon Dioxide removed: currently less than 1 kg a year

A mature oak removes about the same amount of carbon each year as it takes to produce 500 g of beef. Planted for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.



Ben Woodcock
b3nwoodcock@gmail.com
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EARDISLAND IN BLOOM

At long last we are experiencing some warmish weather (28th April if you're wondering), but it's such a shame the tulips, which have once again put on a magnificent display, are already turning.

So far, the weather on Thursday mornings have been favourable and the E - Team have managed to crack on with the usual routine maintenance, although there has been the opportunity to replace the arch at the rear of the dovecote by the millstream, as sadly the previous one was rotting and in danger of collapse.

A big thank you to the dozen or so parishioners who volunteered their time to assist with the litter pick. The numbers were well down on the previous year, which was disappointing. Despite the low numbers the rubbish collected was again substantial and all major roads were covered.

It has also been disappointing recently to see literature in relation to the election displayed on the wooden trellis which we erected outside the Manor House, opposite Church Road. No permission was sought and following a consultation with all our members the items were removed. The trellis is for floral displays only and NOT a notice board.

Craft & Produce Fair

Demand for space at this event has once again been exceptional, with all 50 available spaces fully booked within the first week of going on sale. At present there are around 10 reserves, but we're always interested in hearing from persons new, who, with cancellations always a possibility, may yet find themselves a place. Please search the parish website for further details.

Phil Milchard

EARDISLAND WEATHER REPORT

The weather for Eardisland in March turned out to be a mixed bag of rain and snow with a total of 124mm (4.88inches) of rain and up to 3 inches of snow on the 8th and 9th recorded. Temperatures ranged between 0C to 15C with barometer pressures of 29.00 to 31.00. River levels ranged from 12 to 56 inches.

April started to show signs of spring with temperatures ranging from 10C to 23C . A total of 59mm (2.32inches) of rain were recorded, with storm Noah passing on the 12th bringing 12mm (0.50 inches) of rain with hail. Barometer pressures ranged from 29.38 to 30.1. River levels ranged from 16 to 38 inches.

The equivalent rainfall for 2022 was March 67mm (2.63 inches), and April 34mm (1.33 inches).

Doug Tantrum reporting from Kingfisher House

Barry Freeman wrote a poignant article in the last edition of the parish magazine. He mourned the recent loss of two villagers who had made a noticeable contribution to the life of the community: George Alderson and Paul Selfe. Barry regretted that, with their departure, we had lost a wealth of knowledge about the history of Eardisland. Barry went on to hope that their extensive work could be made available to the community and suggested that their work could be archived and placed in one location so that future generations of villagers, with an interest in local history, could benefit.

I am writing now to let readers know that Eardisland History Group members and I have taken on the project of archiving the very extensive research into many aspects of village life. This began in 1993 when various friends from the village decided to collect the memories and recollections of the elderly inhabitants. A few had reached their full century. The Oral History group recorded the reminiscences of villagers who could remember the First World War; a time when there was no electricity in Eardisland; a trip to Leominster was a twice-yearly special outing; and when butter was wrapped in leaves and kept cool in the well. Several videos and two books resulted from this work. This led on to many projects on various aspects of village life in the past. The list is considerable; the church, the schools (there were three of them); the mills; the toll houses; the manorial system; residential dwellings; the workhouse; the traditions; even the field names and ditches were investigated.

As time went on the history group became more ambitious and researched the more ancient history of the village. Many of the buildings had medieval origins, and were subsequently investigated, especially Burton Court with its beautiful Great Hall and its extensive cellars. All findings were meticulously recorded and some of the projects were supervised by Hereford Council Archaeology Department. Several digs were organised, some important artifacts discovered, and hundreds of pieces of medieval pottery catalogued. The group eventually investigated Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Roman occupation in the area in which we live.

Many people have contributed to this research over the last thirty years. Some are no longer with us, but the History Group continues with its Tuesday morning meetings in Burton Court, and this is where the archive will be permanently housed. Anyone with a passion for local history could have access to the archive. I hope to publish further information about the details of the archive and how it can be accessed in a future edition of the magazine. Students of history who live in this fascinating village will have access to a wealth of material.

So, Barry, nothing is lost, the work of these dedicated members of the community will be preserved.

Lorna Selfe

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Printed by PIP Printing, Hereford
© Published and copyright: Eardisland Parish Council 2023

Views expressed are those of individual contributors and not necessarily those of Eardisland Parish Council. The Eardisland Parish Magazine is published by Eardisland Parish Council without inserts. The Eardisland Parish Magazine is posted online in pdf format on the village website: www.eardisland.org.uk.

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Copy date for the next edition of the Eardisland Parish Magazine:

FRIDAY 30th JUNE 2023



Farewell to 'Paul the Postman'